

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

Our 44th ARRL affiliated year
Special Service Club

Serving Greater Springfield, MA

President's Comments

The HCRA is the best amateur radio club in the area! We are a general interest club. Thanks to the membership surveys and the ideas from our board of directors we have had six excellent meetings. September was a review of our Field Day, an event that had more than fifty members participate and we placed in the top ten nationally. October brought us an entertaining presentation by W3HQT, Bill Olson, one of our advertisers in Zero Beat. Bill left us all laughing with his "just enough technology to make it work" in a high tech microwave world. November was our annual auction. K1BE, Jeff Duquette, our auctioneer had us in stitches laughing while we were picking up some fantastic bargains. Larry Lemoine N1EPE was the host at our December holiday party. Several show and tell items were discussed and we all had plenty to eat. In January, Jeff K1BE again took charge and fired us up for the VHF contest. The club reached it's goal by submitting more than 50 logs and got HCRA listed in the unlimited club category. February, Jim Ussailis, W1EQO gave us an

informative talk on antennas. More than 90 members were in attendance and have plenty of nourishing food for thought on their new antenna systems once the weather breaks. I'm sure our future meetings will also be hits. Meeting topics planned are lightning protection, how to evaluate a piece of radio equipment, life of a DXer, and a fantastic annual banquet with a guest speaker that we are honored to have. Sandwiched among all these meetings will be our second annual fleamarket, held in April.

In order to keep our club moving in the upward direction, it is again time to consider active participation in running our club. The board of directors have been developing a plan to ensure that all who would like to participate will have a chance to make their wishes known. At the March meeting we will have available application forms for serving on the board of directors. We would like all entries in by May in order for all members to meet the applicants before the general election takes place in June. We need your support in order to keep the HCRA on top.

73, Stan.

Next VE exam will be Wednesday, March 6, 1991 7:00pm at the Agawam High School

Next meeting will be March 1st, 8:00pm at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Next board meeting will be March 7th

Club Officers

President—Stan Hilinski, KA1ZE
Vice President — Bob Lafleur, NQ1C
Treasurer—Greg Stoddard, N1AEH
Secretary —Jim Sebolt, N1DUY

Directors

Charlie Dunlap, K1II	Bob Cohen, K1CPJ
Larry Lemoine, N1EPE	Fred Stefanik, N1DPM
Steve Nelson, WA1EYF	Frank Potts, NC1I
Cliff Junkins, W1UWX	Scott Cohen, KA1QAS

Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted as long as credit is given to Zero Beat

Calendar of Events

March

1	Meeting
6	VE Session
7	Board Meeting

April

5	Meeting
11	Board Meeting
28	Fleamarket

May

3	Meeting
9	Board Meeting

June

5	VE Session
7	June Banquet
13	Board Meeting
29-30	Field Day

Receive Only	Freq. Range (MHz)	N.F. (dB)	Gain (dB)	1 dB Comp. (dBm)	Device Type	Price
P28V0	28-30	<1.1	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P50V0	50-54	<1.3	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P50V0G	50-54	<0.5	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P144V0	144-148	<1.5	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P144V0A	144-148	<1.0	15	0	OGFET	\$37.95
P144V0G	144-148	<0.5	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P220V0	220-225	<1.8	15	0	OGFET	\$29.95
P220V0A	220-225	<1.2	15	0	OGFET	\$37.95
P220V0G	220-225	<0.5	20	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95
P432V0	420-450	<1.8	15	-20	Bipolar	\$32.95
P432V0A	420-450	<1.1	17	-20	Bipolar	\$49.95
P432V0G	420-450	<0.5	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$79.95

InLine (if switched)	Freq. Range (MHz)	N.F. (dB)	Gain (dB)	1 dB Comp. (dBm)	Device Type	Price
SP28V0	28-30	<1.2	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP50V0	50-54	<1.4	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP50V0G	50-54	<0.55	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP144V0	144-148	<1.6	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP144V0A	144-148	<1.1	15	0	OGFET	\$67.95
SP144V0G	144-148	<0.55	24	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP220V0	220-225	<1.9	15	0	OGFET	\$59.95
SP220V0A	220-225	<1.3	15	0	OGFET	\$67.95
SP220V0G	220-225	<0.55	20	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95
SP432V0	420-450	<1.9	15	-20	Bipolar	\$62.95
SP432V0A	420-450	<1.2	17	-20	Bipolar	\$79.95
SP432V0G	420-450	<0.55	16	+12	GaAsFET	\$109.95

Every preamplifier is precision aligned on AAR's Hewlett Packard HP8570A/HP3486A state-of-the-art noise figure meter. RX only preamplifiers are for receive applications only. In-line preamplifiers are in switched (for use with transceivers) and have 25 watts transmitter power. Mount in-line preamplifiers between transceiver and power amplifier for high power applications. Other smaller, commercial and special preamplifiers available in the 1-1000 MHz range. Please include \$2 shipping in U.S. and Canada. Connecticut residents add 7-V. % sales tax. C.O.D. orders add \$2. Air mail to foreign countries add 10%. Order your AAR RX only or in-line preamplifier today and start hearing like never before!

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Report on the HCRA Classes by Steve Nelson, WA1EYF

On Tuesday, February 5th at 7:00pm in the Agawam High School the HCRA no-code classes began with Bob McCormick WF1R as instructor. Currently there are approximately 12 students and there is room for more. Due to the interest by a number of students in the Morse code Bob will conduct code sessions between 6:30 and 7:00 prior to the theory class. In the class are relatives of current HCRA members.

FCC Moves 80-meter Novice Subband from the DX Bulletin

The W5YI report says that the FCC has relocated the US 80 meter Novice CW subband. The subband, formerly at 3700 to 3750 KHz, moves to 3675 to 3725 KHz, to get away from SSB interference from Canadian amateurs in the upper part of the subband. Why do DXers care? Because all US Licensees are limited to a maximum of 200 watts PEP output in the novice subbands (except on 10 meters). The FCC press release did not include the effective date of the move, but US DXers should take a note of the new frequencies, and turn off their amplifier as required by FCC regulations.

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Loop yagis: 903 MHz 33 elements \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 MHz 45 elements \$89 kit, \$109 assembled and tested. 1296 55 element "Super Looper" \$99 kit, \$124 assembled and tested. 2304 MHz 45 element \$75 kit, \$89 assembled and tested. Element and hardware kits also available for above loop yagis. 2 and 4 way power dividers. Discount on complete arrays. Solid state linear power amps, 13vDC: 1296 8W in, 35W out, \$315. 1W in, 20W out, \$265. 4W in, 70W out, \$695. GaAsFET preamps: 902 .8dB NF, \$90. 1296 .8dB NF, \$90. 2304 1dB max NF, \$140. SHF systems no-tune transverter kits with 144 MHz IF now available for 902 through 3456. Write or call for complete catalog. DOWNEAST MICROWAVE, Bill Olson, W3HQT. Box 2301, RR1, Troy Maine, 04907. For information and orders telephone (207) 948-3741.

1991 VHF SS Partial Score Listing

By

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

Well gang, you done great! Here is a partial listing of the logs which I checked and sent into the ARRL on February 6th via UPS. There are 52 logs here, and remember, there are many who mail theirs directly into the League. The club will definitely be listed in the "unlimited" category! I apologize to N1DUY and KA1DNX. I forgot to write down your score, and had already sealed the package for shipment. You'll just have to wait in suspense for the June issue of QST! These total up to 117,001 points. Club station W1NY made about 200k. KA1ZE about 120k, NQ1C about 25k, and the others I haven't heard about. So club total score will be in the vicinity of 475k, by my best guess.

Remember, this is a partial listing. June QST usually prints the results, and we have club members in Eastern Mass. Western Mass. Ct, New Hampshire and Vermont! The list is in descending order.

N1DUY	*	K1JAO	321
KA1DNX	*	KA1HTK	288
WA1VRH	52962	KA1TMU	264
W1RIL	10120	NJ1E	248
K1BE	8325	N1EVE	240
NR1L	6144	W1ALL	219
KA1QAS	4160	W1EQO	196
K1II	4100	WA1SMH	180
KA1TBS	3792	KA1QAR	156
KC1OR	3196	N1IBR	140
N1DOP	2925	KA1WER	136
WA3EEC	2700	N1CDR	120
N1ABJ	2210	KA1WNQ/KT	110
K1WVX	1785	KA1VWW	100
KA1WER	1520	N1CQT	96
N1HKF	1368	N1GXR	81
K1CPJ	1250	N1EPE	72
WA1POB	1243	N1FMT	51
KC1TV	1134	N1GVV	46
K1CYD	960	N1IED	44
K1MVR	790	KA1WNQ/KT	34
W1KK	712	KC1OR	30
W1UWX	621	N1GVV	26
K1CYD	564	W1DKY	15
K1MAL	416	N1HKF	15
KA1TBS	415	N1EHS	4
KA1WER	357		

Letter From Ed and Nancy Stefanik

Dear Hampden County Radio Association,

Ed wants to thank you for your donation towards his computerized speech enhancement equipment. At this time he has a Toshiba portable computer set up for receiving Morse Code, which Ed keys in using a special chin switch. Your contributions will enable Ed to purchase eye relief software and obtain necessary training.

Now Ed can begin to practice and learn about how to use the equipment. Soon he'll have a printer and speech synthesizer which will make the system complete.

Ed intends to keep you up-to-date with his progress as this world of communication becomes available to him once again. Thank you so much for helping Ed.

Sincerely,

Nancy and Ed Stefanik

WA1CYK

HCRA Dues Information

Dues for the Hampden County Radio Association are \$9/year. As a member of the HCRA you will receive 10 issues of Zero Beat, possible special notices of meetings, the ability to vote for officers and directors at the annual meeting, and the ability to submit your score towards the club score in the January VHF contest.

You may sign up at any meeting by seeing the club treasurer, Greg Stoddard N1AEH, or you may send your payment along with name, address, call, and license class to HCRA, P.O. Box 482, West Springfield MA, 01090-0482.

Membership is open to all licensed amateurs. A non-amateur may join the HCRA as an associate member.

Feel free to contact any of the officers listed on the front of this newsletter if you have any questions about the club.

Setting up a VHF Contest Station

By

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

Members have been asking me how to best go about setting up a VHF contest station. I don't know why they ask me, I think WA1VRH or NQ1C and most of the other members would be a better guru! However, I'll give it my best shot, with the usual caveats about asking a dumb person a dumb question, get a

Most of you already have two meters. Being able to work SSB is important. Consider trading in the handtalkie for a 2 meter all mode rig. Transverters for other bands will use this 2 meter rig, too. The next thing to think about is a beam antenna. Even a small one on the roof will outperform your rubber duck. An advantage of VHF/UHF operations is a television rotor can turn your array. Smaller masts of lighter weight will work fine. Plan the setup with future expansion in mind: Leave some mast above the highest antenna so you can add some bought or borrowed goodie the week of the contest!

A simple rule of contesting in January is the more bands, the more multipliers, and the higher your score. If you're a repeater user, 446 Mhz and 223 Mhz radios may already be in your shack. Again, the best way to go is with multimode transceivers, but I understand there are just so many dollars to go around. So consider picking up small beam antennas for those frequencies, used or new. Mount them in a high place, run the coax into the shack and connect up the HT during the contest. You'll also have the added advantage during the rest of the year of being able to work the more distant repeaters. (There's nothing like being able to go to a new repeater and tell all your stale jokes to a new bunch of victims!)

Grid hopping, as personified by K1WER, is going to different grid squares and operating during the contests. Those small beams could be more easily transported and will outperform magmount dummy loads.

Many flea markets and hams ads sell used beams cheap. Our club one (in April), the MTARA's, (in March), or New England's biggest, the Deerfield N.H. flea market, are places to look. If you decide to buy new, Rutland Arrays, which advertises here in Zero Beat, makes a top of the line antenna. Avoid new Cushcraft antennas on any band, (unless you're getting a used one), they do not perform very well.

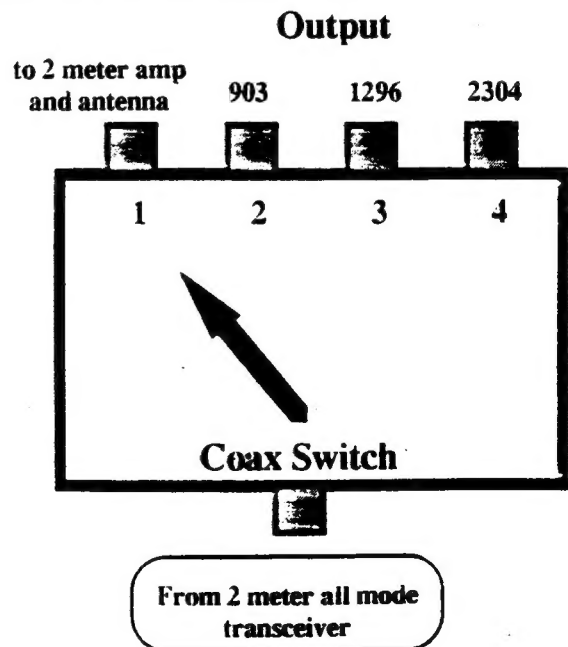
Well, if you haven't turned the page out of boredom, what should you do after you have 2, 222, and 446, with small beams? Friends have asked me where to get kilowatt amps for VHF. My opinion is don't spend the money! You get to meet the neighbors due to TVI, and annoy your fellow hams with key clicks, splatter, and desensing of their receivers.

My feelings are that you're much better off, first - with the best directional beam you can put up, as high as possible. second - use moderate levels of amplification, not more than 200 watts. The best source for linear amps is the "Ham Trader Yellow Pages", or flea markets. What do I think is the best? TE Systems. (Highest prices, too!)

Adding additional bands makes your score jump astronomically. Transverters from Down East Microwave (advertises here in ZB) are the way to go. Purchase a kit and get your smarter ham friends to help you put it together. Fred Stefanick is very gifted in this area, whereas I am all thumbs, and even have trouble lighting my propane torch for soldering. Antenna and 2 in/903 out xverter will cost about \$200. The higher the frequency, the fewer people to talk to. However, in the HCRA, you can work about 20 people no matter which higher band you pick.

I mount xverters in a waterproof box just below the antenna. Most coax is very lossy at these frequencies otherwise. You feed the xverter "black box" with two meters and receive on 2 meters. As you know, RG 8 performs very well on 144 Mhz. What to use for a waterproof box? Well I've used army ammunition boxes, and army telephone boxes. The ammo cans have a lid that comes off, you mount it upside down, drill the lid for the coax feed, clamp it back on and seal the holes with some kind of gunk you located.

I use only one 12 volt line going to all the transverters, since I only plug the thing in during the contests. At the station end of the coax, install a high quality four position coax switch. I run my transceiver coax to feed this switch, then use different positions for the transverters. Note that I feed my 2 meter amplifier on one of the out sides of the four position switch. Being simpleminded, I know I'd fry the transverters if I did it any other way!



Operating a VHF Contest Station

by Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

Jeff Duquette wrote an excellent article on setting up a VHF contest station. However, you can have the absolute best station in the country, but if you don't know how to operate it, you won't do well in the contest. Conversely, being the best operator but running all bands using your flagpole as your antenna won't do you much good either.

I realize that the VHF contest has just passed, and these two articles may seem a little bit untimely. I am writing this article while these things are hot on my mind, so that when the next contest comes around, I can pull out this Zero Beat and see the "notes" I took on what to do better next time. Every contest is a learning experience for every operator, no matter how well they might have done in the contest. So here are some suggestions, use those that apply and make sense to you.

1. If you only have an FM HT or mobile rig, try to go to a good high location. Take it up to a hilltop, and work as many stations as you can. It won't take long for you to work most everyone that monitors the FM simplex frequencies. After awhile, take your rig and go to another grid square. Most of us are lucky—we're close enough to easily move to another grid. Once you're in that new grid, work everyone again! Don't forget to let everyone know you're in a new grid when you call CQ. You must submit a separate entry for each grid you operate in, but you'll be giving everyone else extra points, and you can get listed twice in QST! You'll also help the club make it to the "unlimited" category.

2. If you have multiple bands, don't be afraid to "sked" people to other bands. It doesn't do much good for a single operator to sit up on 432 or 1296 and call CQ for hours. You'll work a few, but not enough to make it worth your time. You're better off to sit on 2 meters, and ask every station you work what other bands they have.

3. Pay attention to the activity hours. There is a time when it may pay you to browse or call CQ on some of the quieter bands, and that is during the activity hours for those bands. Especially during the first ten minutes or so of the activity hour, you'll notice a big increase in activity on the band. Unless you've really got a hot streak going somewhere else, it pays to take a few minutes to check out the "activity" band.

4. Operate as much of the contest as you can. At 9:00 on Saturday night, don't say "I think I'll go watch a movie now". Granted, you'll have to take some breaks or else you'll go bonkers, but plan them for times when the bands will be a little less active. The evening hours (say 7:00 through 11:00) are especially active, so if you need a rest, take it before things start to jump.

5. Don't give up early. Just because the contest might have been a slow one, don't give up at 8:00 on Sunday evening. The last 3 or 4 hours of a contest usually get quite busy, with everyone trying to get the most out of the last few hours. One year, I almost gave up an hour early, but stuck it out and got 3 new grids in that last hour!

6. Try to balance your time between FM and sideband. You'll be able to rack up a lot of points on FM very quickly, but you'll also "use up" everyone right away. It's good to keep an ear on the FM radios though, because there will be people who will turn on their HT's for 5 minutes, and then be gone for the rest of the contest. So you want to grab those people while you can. I keep separate FM

rigs on the various FM frequencies, and if there's a lull in sideband activity, I'll call a quick CQ or two on FM. Remember that you can only have one transmitter operating at a time, so you'll have to coordinate your hands and feet on those PTT buttons and footswitches!

7. Use good omnidirectional antennas for FM simplex. A beam will be to cumbersome to turn for the fast-paced FM activity. The simplex frequencies are usually too crowded and busy to pull in the far away stations anyway. Just because you can hear them with your big beam, the other local stations won't hear them and they'll talk all over you. I have a Hustler G6-144 75 feet in the air, and I was able to work every station I could hear, and every station that I heard other stations work. I tried my 215WB (vertically polarized) on 2m FM, and did not work any extra stations with it.

8. Don't be afraid to dig out that code key hiding in the closet. There is CW activity, and you'll get extra grids if you use CW. Don't be afraid of cross-mode contacts, either. If you hear a weak station calling CQ in voice, but you can't get them to hear you, try coming back to them in CW. I've also called CQ in CW, and have had people come back to me in voice!

9. Make sure you have enough desk space to spread out your papers. You'll need your logs, dupe sheets, grid square maps, activity hours, and other information. You'll also need room for your microphone(s) and keyer. And if you're like me, you'll want a glass of water, too. (But put that in a place where you won't knock it over) A headset/boom mike combination with a footswitch is a good thing to have; it lets you talk hands-free, while you're looking at something or even writing. Just make sure you feel comfortable with your setup, because there are times when you'll be trying to do 4 things at once, and if you're not comfortable, you'll get flustered and do something stupid, like log contacts from one band on a different band's logsheet.

10. A computer is a great tool for contest logging, but you have to weigh it's strengths against the weaknesses. I love computers, and all they can do, but I don't like to use them for a contest operation. They take up too much desk space; even a portable computer will quickly fill up your operating position. You also have to be care that the computer you use doesn't create too much interference. Some computers are better than others when it comes to interference.

11. Be courteous on the air. Some contacts are going to be tough to pull through; if you have trouble getting the other station's grid, thank him for his patience after the contact is over. If another station asks you to repeat some information several times, don't get upset and spit out the information quickly, but rather, slow down and take your time so the other station can copy you accurately. You may never talk to the specific station again that you are working, but if you get in the habit of being a courteous operator, you will gain a good reputation.

12. Remember, this is a contest, but it's ultimate purpose is that it is supposed to be fun. If you have problems with a neighboring station ruining a band for you, try to work out a schedule with them to share the band. Maybe they can work another band while you get a few hours operating time on the one they were using. If you have other problems, don't get flustered or bent out of shape. If the contest is so bad that you're not enjoying it at all, you probably need to find another area of amateur radio to funnel your interests!

Above all, enjoy yourself and turn in the best score that you can!

Long Time Friends

Tom Barrett is an old friend to many in the Hampden County Radio Association. Tom helped to set up the HCRC after World War II. You've all enjoyed his article on the founding of the club.

He moved to Florida to enjoy his retirement in 1982.

Tom has suffered a stroke and has spent a lot of time in bed. If you care to send him a QSL or get well card, his address is:

Tom Barrett W1KUE
5265 South Alice Point
Homosassa, FL 32646

Bob and Eunie Gordon live in the same city. You can sometimes work Eunie on Monday evenings on 75 meters. She's net control on 3.939 at about 6 pm. Their address is:

Bob and Eunie Gordon W1KUL/W1UKR
2543 South Forest Terrace
Homosassa, FL 32646
Phone: 904-628-5045

They journey home for the summer months to Maine and you may catch them for an eyeball at Brown Baggers! Summer address is:

P.O. Box 268
Rockwood, ME 04478

Bill and Heather Hall are on their permanent QTH on the island of St. Eustacis. Their mailing address is:

Bill and Heather Hall W1JP/WB1ABF
P.O. BOX 88
ST. Eustacis,
Netherlands, Antilles

Jean and Norm Peacor are retired to Cape Cod. When Zero Beat reprints the articles about the Marconi Memorial station, KM1CC, you'll hear all about the past doings at their summer/retirement home. Their address is:

Jean and Norm Peacor K1JU/K1JV
P.O. Box 1148
East Orleans, MA 02643

Ed Tilton is just out of the hospital after surgery. His address is:

Ed Tilton, W1HDQ
P.O. Box 5529
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Origins of the HCRA Worked 25 Members Award

By

C. Norman Peacor K1IJV

I am sure that it comes as no surprise to many of you that the Hampden County Radio Association has long offered a certificate for individuals working the club members. The certificate originated on February 1, 1963, when Bernie Goyer, W1UPF, qualified for certificate #1. I remember well that he personally drove to my house, and hand delivered his list of 25 HCRA members that he had worked. During February of that year, 30 certificates in all were issued, and it was off to an auspicious beginning. I think that if you look at the attached list, you'll recognize many old and familiar calls. It is really a roster of the many members of the club who participated in its activities so vigorously during those particular years.

It is also interesting that as of the present time, there is only one non-local recipient. Certificate #42 was issued on August 9, 1963, to Avis Miracle, W8WUT. Issuance of the certificates slowed down during 1964 to 1969 reflecting the fact that most members had qualified. The last one issued was to Al Drake, KA1GPX. Nevertheless, the certificate has been active for the past 27 years now, and a good question to ask yourself is, "Do I have mine?"

What does it take to get one? Not all that much is really required for members of the Hampden County Radio Association. You must contact 25 club members. If you'll send a list showing the station called, signal reports, and band worked, (the usual log entries) and a copy of your QSL card, then you're in business. There is no fee, and you'll quickly and easily be the recipient of a nice piece of wallpaper. Members outside of the Hampden County area are required to only work 15 members for the certificate, but if they work 25, they'll get the gold seal on their copy.

By the way, with all the activity on the bands now, such as 10 meters, it is a fine occasion to spread the word to other hams outside the call area to see if they can qualify. There is no set time period during which members can be worked, and I have club rosters going back many years to corroborate contacts.

Just so that we may have a reading of the roll, the following list of the individuals is in the order in which they received them. Inadvertently, #58 was unissued, so there is a blank in the sequence.

Traditionally, this is awarded at our June banquet. The QSL card you send is kept in a permanent bound collection, which is put on display at the banquet. It reads like a distinguished list of "Who's Who" in the past-and-present HCRA!

NUMBER	CALL	NAME	NUMBER	CALL	NAME
1	WIUPF	BERNARD GOYER	46	KINWF	ROBERT G. YOUNG
2	WIHDQ	EDWARD P. TILTO	47	KIWQQ	ERNIE COUCHON
3	W1ALL	GEORGE H. HUGHES	48	K1JUI	ALAN CARPIN
4	K1PTG	AUGUST ROSATI	49	K1YFO	STEVE BORG
5	K1SAV	GEORGE PELOQUIN	50	K1JU	NORM PEACOR
6	WIIC	HOWARD R. GURNEY	51	K1UHA	CATHEDRAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
7	K1PMK	GEORGE DOUGAN			
8	WIFAB	KENNETH D. WALKER	52	K1ZQB	JOHN DUMONT
9	KINGL	DON ROSATI	53	K1SQN	RICHARD C. GASKILL
10	K1SCY	LARRY BERGERON	54	K1LJH	JOHN CHENIS
11	K1UQB	RUDY BAYERLE	55	K1FJS	GARY L. VEY
12	WIDGJ	MIKE LUDKIEWICZ	56	K1LDT	CHET KALIS
13	W1JWV	HOWARD H. CUTTING	57	K1RNH	ALBERT C. MACH
14	WIGIV	ROBERT D. PATTEN	58	—	NOT ISSUED
15	WINLE	ROBERT A. ADOLPHSON	59	W1KAN	WARREN MAGEE
16	K1NU	DAVID KLIMAJ	60	W1STR	NORMAN P. FOREST
17	K1NEZ	ROBERT KENNEDY	61	K1UOR	DORIS YOUNG
18	K1TTJ	JOHN J. SAYERS	62	W1UDT/1	RICHARD W. LORD
19	K1MMX	EVANGELO DEMETRIOU	63	W1DZZ	DONALD WADE
20	K1UXF	HEBERT A. STUART	64	K1KKK	DICK BUSER
21	K1NWE	ROBERT YOUNG	65	K1HYI	SHELDON M. TITCOMB
22	K1PU	WALT BROWN	66	W1GJO	ROBERT PETERSON
23	K1MAL	MARVIN E. McCONKEY	67	K1FUA	FRED LaVALLEY
24	K1NJC	JOHN J. SHEEHAN	68	W1UPH	DONALD JOHNSON
25	K1RGC	FRAN VALOIS	69	W1IEK	PETER J. MARENGO
26	K1VQX	FRANCIS LENTHAN	70	W1HHN	WALT NERO
27	K1IYT	ERNEST D. SIAS	71	W1DNB	ROBERT H. PHOENIX
28	K1RUR	JOHN W. TILTON	72	W1IUI	DUNCAN SMITH
29	K1YHI	RAYMOND J.R	73	W1GZO	TED LOCKWOOD
30	K1TGT	JOHN A. GNIADY	74	W1IQJ	DONALD E. HUNTINGTON
31	W1UPG	ANN GOYER	75	W1MTV	FRANCIS BLACK
32	W1OY	MORRIS KASANOF	76	W1PUX	BRUCE E. FELPER
33	W1OFV	WILLIAM E. WITINOK	77	W1EHS	BARBARA MURNANE
34	W1HGP	DONALD T. LAFLEUR	78	W1APD	JOHN MURNANE
35	W1YWT	HELENE K. CHENEY	79	W1SMH	AJAX JACKOWSKI
36	K1OKG	STEPHEN SULLIVAN	80	W1CAD	JOHN BALBONI
37	K1GEH	FREDERICK S. BOCK	81	K1BE	JEFFREY J. DUQUETTE
38	K1TGS	DARYL GRANT	82	W1ABF	HEATHER HALL
39	K1CYG	STANLEY CALL	83	W1JP	WILLIAM HALL
40	K1TKL	PAUL WISIOLEK	85	8P6EZ	DON GLEASON
41	K1JUV	D. JEAN PEACOR	86	VP2MCU	HEATHER HALL
42	W8WUT	AVIS MIRACLE	87	VP2MCV	WILLIAM HALL
43	K1KCN	ARTHUR L. LINDSEY	88	W1CAC	SCOTT DARNSEY
44	K1DXK	DAVID BOCK	89	W1EMN	ALLAN SITTARD
45	W1ZER	ALFRED HODGSON	90	K1ERS	WILLIAM MCCARTHY
			91	K1GPX	ALBERT J. DRAKE

FLEA MARKET

AMATEUR RADIO — COMPUTER — ELECTRONICS

HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY APRIL 28, 1991

SOUTHWICK RECREATIONAL CENTER — SOUTHWICK, MA

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Doors Open (Sellers Only) at 7:00 AM

Exam Registration 9 - 9:30 AM

FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED !

VE Exams at 10:00 AM

Talk In Frequencies:

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449.175 AC1T/R

Tables: \$7.00 each in advance

\$10.00 each at the door

Admission: \$2.00

For more info

Contact:

N1DPM

Fred Stefanik

413-786-7943

or

WB1FVS

Tom Delnicki

203-644-0026

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Powder
Mill Rd

Southwick

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CENTER

N

EXIT 4

Mass Turnpike I-90

West
Springfield

EXIT 6

I-291

City of
Springfield

EXIT 3

I-91

S

Connecticut

C
O
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N

R
I
V
E
R

Agawam

To advance order tables, send \$7.00 per table to:

Fred Stefanik, N1DPM

Number of tables: _____

Name: _____

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Times \$7.00 per: X 7

Agawam, MA 01030

TOTAL: _____

Call: _____

Make checks payable to the Hampden County Radio Association.

Advance table orders need to be received prior to April 20, 1991

NOMINATIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS ARE BEING SOLICITED.

By

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

In the interest of general knowledge for our club membership, especially the newer ones, we are going to run a few notes on the club offices and what the job entails. This should not be thought of as an expose, and the scandal sheets don't have to bother copying this! The club year runs from September to June. Many moons ago the season was the more normal January to December, but it seemed that at Christmas time, no one was much interested in the annual club meeting or in being elected to the Board of Directors. Something to do with a holiday season, and their families. So it was changed to end at the annual club meeting, which was made into a banquet so that someone would show up. Food attracts even the less stout-hearted members! It is at this annual meeting that all official club business is conducted and the new slate of officers is elected. Keeping in mind that being nominated is tantamount to election in this organization, here's the offices and what the duties are:

PRESIDENT

Presides at the meetings of the club and Board of Directors. Has one vote on the board, and is elected for a one year term, or a nervous breakdown, whichever comes first.

VICE PRESIDENT

Serves as president in his absence. VP is also the program chairman, charged with the scheduling and presentation of programs at the meetings. Under our organization, at the first board meeting of the season, usually during August, the entire year is laid out. Most often, the load is shared, with other board members each taking a certain month and getting the meeting presentation ready. The VP has one vote and is elected for one year in office, or impeachment, whichever comes first.

TREASURER

The treasurer receives all monies and other properties due the club, and disburses these at the direction of the Board. He holds one vote on the Board and is elected for one year in office, or a signed postcard from Bermuda, whichever comes first.

SECRETARY

The secretary keeps minutes of the Board meetings, and maintains with the treasurer a list of all current club members. He does any mailings as directed by the Board, and any other correspondence that may be required by club business. He also keeps all past Board minutes, in case anyone ever requests to see them. (No one ever has!) The secretary is elected for a one year term, or until the wife throws him out with all the club records. He has one vote on the Board.

DIRECTORS

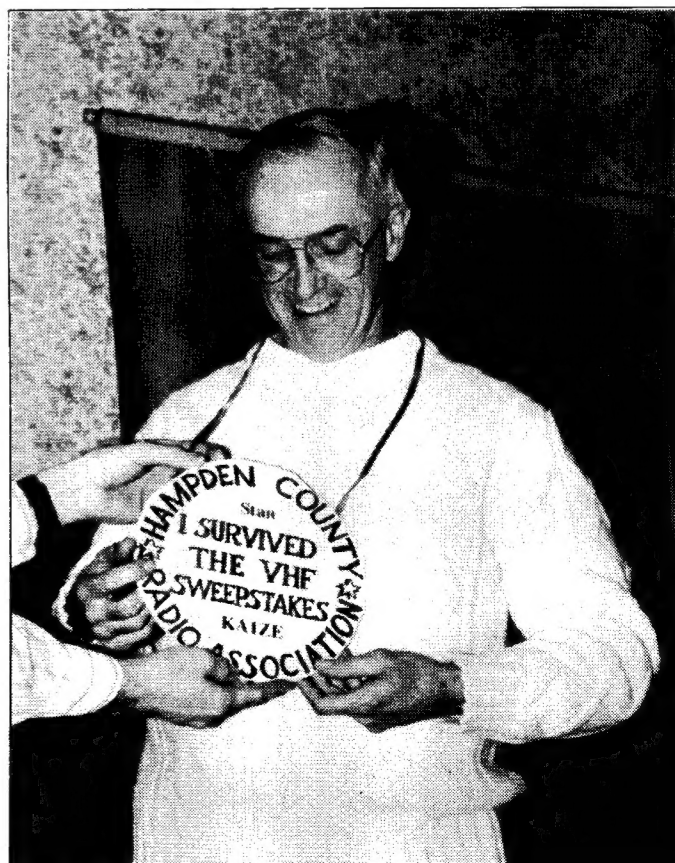
Four directors are elected every year for two year terms. That is to ensure that there is always some experienced people on the Board. The Directors are responsible for all business and activities of the club. No club business is conducted at regular meetings, and this has been proven to be very successful. Monthly meetings of the Directors are held, usually at various "volunteers" homes. A quorum of 5 members is required to conduct club business. Each Director has one vote on the Board. The entire Board is composed of the four club officers and eight Directors. The past president is an honorary board member.

QUALIFICATIONS

Besides having a pulse, stringent criteria must be met by each candidate. You have to let someone nominate you, and not be a silent key at that time. Actually all full members of the HCRA are eligible. (To be a full member you must be a licensed radio amateur.) If you're willing to work for the club, with little or no thanks, and enjoy the challenge of working with a team of great people, the job's for you.

HOW TO NOMINATE SOMEONE:

Talk to any member of the present Board. A "clique" does not run this club, and almost anyone is welcome on the Board. The biggest problem we have is that many people recite a litany of past service to the club, and don't realize that there's also work to be done today! We need your help to keep things rolling!!!



Stan finally gets the award he has been waiting for

Pitcairn Island: 1938

By

Bob Stephens W1MM

The conversation was what size socks would fit a nine month old baby. The year was 1938. Radio communications over 8000 miles to a tiny two mile wide dot in the Pacific enabled Pittsfield resident Franklyn Lindley to chat with his brother Granville on Pitcairn Island.

"Another amateur in town tried to reach the island but was just not getting through. So the Lindley's all came over to my QTH and I was able to immediately establish contact using code.", said Bob Stephens. "Pitcairn came back to us using phone and the conversation proceeded that way. Mr. Lindley of Pitcairn described life on the island to us and the solemn question of baby socks arose when what gifts to send to the native islanders was raised. Mr. Andrew Young, a descendent of the Andrew Young who mutinied on the "Bounty", was the radio operator on the Pitcairn side of the conversation. The baby had been born nine months ago."

A message was also taken and passed to Dr. Southworth of Springfield, that Hilda Christian, a descendent of Fletcher Christian, had had a successful operation in New Zealand and was due home soon. Dr. Southworth had recommended the operation when he had visited the island some months ago.

Mr. Lindley and his assistant Lou Bellam were to leave the island the following Saturday. They had one more national broadcast scheduled for the red network on NBC, with "Ripley's 'Believe It Or Not'" program. He had come to the island to donate radio equipment given by firms and individuals in the United States to the lonely Pacific island.

"Zero Beat readers may find this of interest. It was a big thrill for us back then." 73, Bob Stephens W1MM

SILENT KEY: PLAN NOW.

By

Jeffrey J. Duquette K1BE

It's always sad to have one of our ham friends pass on. We all know that our turn awaits us. Plan now for the disposal of your ham radio equipment. Most wives have no idea what's in the shack, never mind its dollar value! Did you want to give your faithful telegraph key to a trusted friend for continued use? Will all your treasured club photos and mementos end up in the wood stove?

I would suggest you draw up a list to be kept in the ham desk or with your last will. (By the way, Massachusetts is not a good state to die in without a will. Two years after your death the state and lawyers will be richer, but not your

loved ones! And if your estate is worth \$1m+ it pays to move.) Put on this list the name, address, and phone numbers of trusted hams willing to help dispose of your gear. Its a good idea to ask their permission first, but not essential. List all of your major pieces of paraphernalia, and their approximate value. Any small items you want friends to have could be mentioned. Large, expensive items should be included in your will. A problem with setting values is that even though you paid \$1200.00 for that Yaesu transceiver, the company has issued six new modifications since. So today it might only be worth \$300.00. QST ads, ham yellow pages, and dealer's used equipment prices should be used for reference.

People are people, and no one believes that tomorrow is the day the angels will come for them. (Well, I hope it will be angels!) For people who never make up a list I'd like to suggest a formal club policy. To help out the family, the club president could recommend two club members to handle the estate. The family could pick one and have them do several things.

1. Inventory the equipment and set a cash value.

a. Make an "entire lot" purchase and re-sell the stuff to get to get the money back. (Sometimes takes a whole year!)

b. Agree to sell the equipment for the family gratis, or for 10% commission plus expenses.

c. Help the family sell the estate by providing the places to put ads, etc.

It is a true labor of love and hard work to take care of an estate. If this policy is adopted, the club president should not buy any of the estate items to avoid hints of collusion.

Years ago one of our old time HCRA members was going into the hospital for brain surgery. He took the time to send along some old issues of "Zero Beat" to me. He died during the operation but because of his thoughtfulness, the club now has some valuable historical records. You all enjoyed the series: "Years Ago in Zero Beat". What better way to remember old friends? Set aside that HCRA memorabilia so that the club gets it. Reprinted from Zero Beat 1979 "They are not gone, they are on the trail ahead."

RG8 Coax Sale

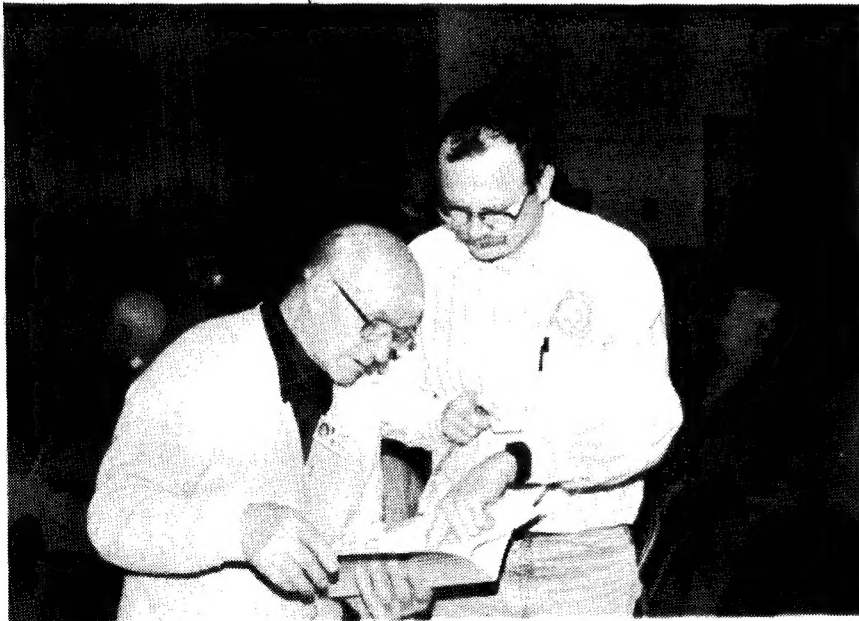
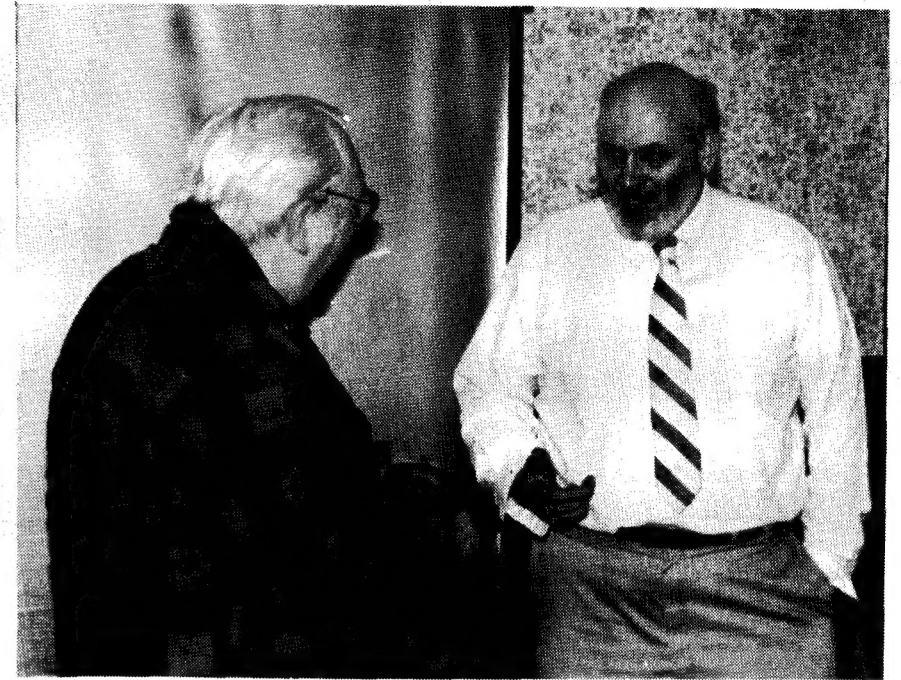
A limited amount of high quality foam core RG 8 A/U is now on sale. Local radio stores sell a poorer grade RG 8/U for 42¢ per linear foot. This coax is brand new, with 96% shielding. Here's your chance to save money and improve performance.

500 foot roll \$160 (32¢ ft)

100 foot lengths 35¢ ft

Odd lengths 37¢ foot

786-7856 584-9005



How To Contact The Editor

- 1) Call me at (413) 737-8503
- 2) U.S. mail to Bob Lafleur, NQ1C, 45 Ionia Street, Springfield MA 01109-2519
- 3) Packet mail to NQ1C @ WINY.MA
- 4) TCP/IP mail to bob@nq1c.ampr.org (ip address 44.44.0.35) – I hang out on the 146.475 packet repeater
- 4) CompuServe mail to 75146,3122
- 5) America Online mail to Skid6
- 6) Internet mail to 75146.3122@CompuServe.com
- 7) GENie mail to SKID
- 8) Prodigy mail to FRBN29A
- 8) Come visit me at my house. Shack tours are free.

VE Exams

Exams are sponsored by the HCRA on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM *sharp* at the Agawam High School. VE's are also needed. If you are interested in taking an exam or helping give exams, please contact Jeanette WC1O at 786-1463.

The next VE exam will be March 6th, 1991 at 7:00pm.

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

Next Meeting

March 1st 8:00pm

Feeding Hills Congregational Church

Harry Thomas, KA1NH ("Nutty Harry")

Lightning and Lightning Protection

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Editor: Bob Lafleur, NQ1C

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